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and the second family of House Wrens were able to fly from their home box.

The song period extended in many instances well into midsummer and even later, and the end of the first and beginning of the second period was not clearly defined. Up to and including July 2nd, the Vesper, Grasshopper, Chipping, Field, and Song Sparrows, Chewink, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Maryland Yellow-throat, Catbird, Wood Thrush, and Robin were in song during the middle of the day, as well as early morning and evening. The Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers did not cease singing until after July 10th, and the Chat until three days later. The Robin was heard at 3 a. m. on the 16th and did not become entirely silent until after the 29th. August 2nd marked the last song of the Black and White Warbler, and the 5th of the Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, and Maryland Yellow-throat. On the 8th the Chewink sang its last, and I noted the Kentucky Warbler still chipping in the undergrowth. The Baltimore Oriole retired for the season as a musician August 22nd; Field Sparrow, 25th; Blue-winged Warbler, 26th; the Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Flicker, Red-eyed Vireo and Oven-bird on the 27th; Orchard Oriole, 28th; American Redstart, September 5th, and finally the Warbling Vireo on the 14th of September.

FRANK L. BURNS.

Berwyn, Penn.

A SCREECH OWL THAT PLAYED SANTA CLAUS.—One afternoon last February, on opening the door of my cabin in the woods near Pensauken, N. J., I was not a little surprised to find a Screech Owl within. The bird had entered the stove pipe and came down twelve feet of pipe and around two elbows and gotten into the stove, where its flapping about had displaced one of the stove lids, and hence it had flown into the room. When I attempted to catch it the bird snapped its bill fiercely and showed signs of fight, but when finally caught it gave up completely and appeared to feign death, that is, it allowed itself to lie in my hands limp and apparently lifeless. I placed it upon the table, where it lay upon its side without movement. I tried to get it to sit upon my finger, but it would allow itself to fall, and only when it found that it was actually falling would it attempt to cling to the finger and regain its balance. I tossed it into the air, thinking it would take wing, but it allowed itself to fall to the floor, after which it flew across the room and alighted on a shelf. The bird was of the rufus plumage and entirely unhurt, and this passive manner of allowing itself to be handled was new to me. Toward evening, it became very restless and flew about the room, and as I would approach it would utter a single note—a sound entirely unknown to me in a Screech Owl—more like the squawk of a

Green Heron than anything else I can liken it to, and would follow with a savage snapping of the bill. The next morning I placed it upon a branch outside, but it was some moments before it realized that it was free and flew away.

CHRESWELL J. HUNT.

Philadelphia.

RECENT LITERATURE.

American Birds¹ is a recent profusely illustrated book from photographs from life, with the accompanying text in the popular scientific style, but making no pretensions to the scientific accuracy which is characteristic of those who are engaged in scientific researches in animal behavior. The book is rather another of the accurate popular books of the best class. The illustrations are for the most part clear and selected with a view to their value in depicting the family life of the birds studied. The general account of each group studied is in large, clear type, and this is followed by a brief but comprehensive description of plumage and range in smaller type. "In this book no attempt has been made to include all the different bird families, but a series of representative birds from the hummingbird to the eagle has been selected. . . . Many of these studies were made in the West, but in the list of birds treated an effort has been made to get a selection that is national in scope." In this book no one can fail to find entertainment of the most wholesome kind, and it should occupy a place beside books which contribute to the knowledge of the life of our birds.

L. J.

The Warblers of North America² is one of the most important contributions to ornithological literature of the year. It has been prepared at great labor and expense to meet a growing demand for a book to which the bird student may go with assurance of success in properly determining which of the host of warblers he has seen. That the book meets this demand is attested by the eagerness with which its appearance was awaited and the promptness of its wide

¹ American Birds|Studied and Photographed|from Life|by William Lovell Finley,|illustrated from photographs by|Herman T. Bohlman|and the author.| Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1907. \$1.50, *net*.

² The Warblers|of|North America,|by|Frank M. Chapman,|with the coöperation of other ornithologists|with twenty-four full-page colored plates, illustrating|every species, from drawings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes|and Bruce Horsfall, and half-tones|of nests and eggs.| New York:|D. Appleton & Company.|1907. 8vo. Cloth. \$3.00, *net*.